FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Military, Security Situation — Syrian fighters fired missiles at Israeli aircraft patrolling over Lebanon on 25 May but no Israeli planes were hit and no dogfight developed, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio also noted that Strela missiles were fired at an Israeli helicopter on 23 May but did not confirm earlier Lebanese reports that the helicopter was downed.

The previous day the IDF again intervened to secure a cease-fire between warring Druze and Christian militiamen in the Ash-Shuf region, Jerusalem radio reported. While Lebanese Forces communiques reported by Voice of Lebanon radio and the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon blamed the Progressive Socialist Party for starting the fighting by shelling Christian villages, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio accused the Phalangists of initiating the shelling, killing 5 people and wounding 17.

Earlier, the IDF spokesman announced an Israeli soldier was killed in a 23 May ambush in southern Lebanon, according to IDF Radio. In another development a 500-strong Libyan force equipped with T-72 tanks recently deployed in the Al-Biqa' valley, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Saudi-Syrian Contacts — A Saudi envoy conveyed a message on the Lebanon situation from King Fahd to Syrian President Hafiz al- Asad, who gave the envoy a message in reply, Damascus radio reported. According to "special sources" cited by Radio Free Lebanon, Saudi Arabia has devised a "settlement plan" for Lebanon and Syria aimed at the withdrawal of Syrian and PLO forces from Lebanon in exchange for security guarantees and financial compensation for Syria. Amman television likewise reported that the Saudis are mediating between Syria and Lebanon on the withdrawal agreement.

Meanwhile, a Damascus radio commentary underscored Syria's recent emphasis on the Phalangist role in Lebanon, asserting that the Phalangists have become a "major party" in the implementation of U.S.-Israeli plans and that the Lebanese regime represents only the Phalangist Party.

Arens on Syrian Preparations — Israel is "disturbed" by indications that Syria is preparing for war in both Lebanon and the Golan Heights, Defense Minister Moshe Arens told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in remarks reported by Jerusalem radio.

PLO

Deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir announced in an interview with the *London Times* that the PLO will not withdraw from Lebanon unless the Lebanese Government meets four conditions: the Israeli-Lebanese agreement should permit some Palestinian political activity in Lebanon; Palestinian civilians in Lebanon should enjoy guaranteed protection; the PLO should maintain some military presence in Lebanon even after its withdrawal; there should be direct negotiations between the PLO and the Lebanese Government.

Al-Wazir also told PLO fighters near Damascus in a speech reported by Radio Monte Carlo that Fatah has cut off food supplies to the mutinous elements in Al-Biqa'. He strongly condemned Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for aiding the Fatah dissidents. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat likewise denounced Al-Qadhdhafi in a recent speech reported by the London paper *Ash-Sharq al-Awsat*, threatening to "cut out his tongue." Meanwhile, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio commentaries launched fierce verbal attacks on "Sergeant" al-Qadhdhafi as JANA reaffirmed Libya's support for the Fatah dissidents in Al-Biqa' against "'Arafat and his clique." The dissidents are coordinating their plans with the Syrian forces, who have prevented 'Arafat supporters from carrying out any action against the mutineers, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

'Arafat and Al-Wazir left Damascus for Al-Biqa' on 25 May in another attempt to end the rebellion, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Iraq-Iran Conflict

Iraq is ready to sign a "special peace agreement" with Iran under the supervision of the United Nations according to which both sides will pledge not to attack each other's cities and villages even thoughthe war may continue, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz announced in a statement to INA. The announcement, which was made prior to an upcoming visit by a UN delegation to inspect Iraqi claims of war damage to civilian areas, also said Iraq is willing to accept UN observers on either side of the border to verify that both sides abide by the agreement.

In the meantime ships and aircraft of the Iraqi Navy attacked two Iranian vessels near Bandar-e Khomeyni, destroying one of them, according to a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio claimed that more than 30 Iraqi soldiers died in various clashes along the Meymak and Abadan sectors of the front but did not report any naval engagements.

Iraq

After 5 months of "discreet" discussions Iraq and France have "satisfactorily" settled the repayment of $1.8 billion Iraq owes to France, mostly for the purchase of military supplies, AFP reported. Foreign Minister 'Aziz, who conducted the negotiations with his French counterpart, said the talks were held in a "cordial atmosphere" and both governments expressed their desire to continue the traditional friendship and cooperation in all spheres, according to INA.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia is following a "straight and moderate path" without extremism and there are no ties linking or subjugating it to anything, King Fahd declared in a statement broadcast by Riyadh radio. He dismissed external criticism of the Kingdom "based on rancor or grudge" and extolled its economic development, affirming that Saudi Arabia may become a grain exporter in the future. Stressing the importance of training personnel capable of operating modern materiel, Fahd expressed hope that the Kingdom will soon have sufficient military forces to protect itself.

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AFP: 'Truce' in Panjshir Valley May End Soon

BK241548 Hong Kong AFP in English 1535 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Islamabad, May 24 (AFP) -- A truce in force since January between a resistance group and Soviet-Afghan forces in the Panjshir Valley north of Kabul could end soon, Western diplomatic sources here said. Three battalions of Afghan troops had been dispatched to the valley a few days ago, the sources added. A detachment of some hundred Afghan soldiers accompanied by 50 Soviet military advisers occupied the Onawa outpost, in the south of the valley, the sources stated — citing various Kabul-based sources.

It was too soon to know whether the three batallions sent to the valley were to relieve Onawa Garrison or constituted the advance guard of an ofensive against this bastion of Islamic resistance, the sources pointed out.

Ahmad Shah Masud, leader of the resistance in the valley, had admitted in an interview with a Western journalist at the beginning of this month that he feared the ceasefire might be broken at any moment. He had accepted a ceasefire with the Soviets, he explained, in order to rebuild the valley's economy and regroup his forces after six Soviet-Afghan offensives in three years.

Commander Masud, the sources added, only dealt with the Soviet high command and refused to negotiate with the Kabul government, which he did not recognise. He had reportedly rejected an offer to become governor of the Apisa Province where the Panjshir Valley is located.

The ceasefire not only permitted reconstruction, but the unification of the resistance movements in the centre and north of Afghanistan by "short circuiting" rival parties based in Peshawar, Pakistan, the sources stated. But the truce had also enabled the Soviets to use troops withdrawn from the Panjshir Valley in recent mopping-up operations of resistance positions north of Kabul and in eastern Afghanistan, the sources added.

BAKHTAR Reports on Afghan Border Militias

LD250825 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] Kabul, May 24, BAKHTAR — *Haqiqat-e Enqelab Sawr* carries an article which reads in part:

The formation of the independent battalions of the border militias is one of the major developments which have taken place since the victory of the April national and democratic revolution in Afghanistan. Right now about 3,500 peasants and working people of border areas of Nangarhar and Konarha Provinces have voluntarily formed the battalions of border militias and the process is vigorously continuing. In Herat also about 10,000 peasants have formed the battalion of border militias.

The formation of border militias made it possible for the border militants to hold arms to defend their areas as well as to cooperate in productive activities. It is appreciable that due to the cooperation of border militias, the schools and state organizations in the border areas continue their work with peace and order.

Third Group of Prisoners Released 23 May

LD231511 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1245 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] Kabul, 23 May, BAKHTAR — In accordance with the decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium on amnesty and reduction of prison sentences to mark the glorious fifth anniversary of the April Revolution, a third group of prisoners sentenced for counterrevolutionary crimes were released today. In a ceremony in Pol-e Charkhi Prison, two security officials spoke on the humanitarian policies of the party and of the DRA and asked the pardoned prisoners to realize the truth of the April Revolution, to take part, together with other toiling compatriots, in the construction of a new and prosperous society in revolutionary Afghanistan, and to fulfill their duties and responsibilities toward the homeland, the revolution, and the people.

In response, Mohammad Na'im, one of the pardoned prisoners, repented his past actions on behalf of others. Condemning the shameless and inhuman acitons of counterrevolutionary bands against the people, the homeland, and the April Revolution, he read the message issued by the pardoned prisoners. The message calls on those who have been deceived by the enemies of the homeland, the revolution, and the Afghan people, to avail themselves of the general amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, to join the government and the working people, and to play a patriotic role in securing nationwide peace in the country and for the realization of the aspirations of the party and the DRA.

MENA: Rebel Leader Affirms Struggle To Continue

NC250743 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0725 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] Islamabad, 25 May (MENA) — Shaykh Sabqatollah Mojadedi, head of the Islamic union for the strugglers of Afghanistan, has affirmed that the strugglers' primary concern is the continuation of jihad and struggle and the liberation of Afghanistan from the Soviet presence. In a statement to MENA,Shaykh Mojadedi said: At the same time the Afghan strugglers do not object to holding political contacts to solve the Afghan question peacefully. He pointed out that the strugglers support the Geneva talks and hope that they will succeed, but that that did not mean the strugglers will lay down their arms.

Shaykh Mojadedi said contacts are taking place with the Pakistani Government to learn about the indirect results of the Geneva talks.

Shaykh Mojadedi concluded his statement by lauding Egypt and its interest in the Afghan people's question.

Ershad Meets With People's League Leaders 22 May

BK221033 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 22 May 83

[Text] The chairman of the Bangladesh People's League, Dr Aleem al-Razee, had an informal meeting with Chief Martial Law Administrator Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad in Dhaka last night. Secretary General Professor Nur Mohammad Quazi and other leaders of the party were also present on the occasion.

The meeting, which lasted about 2 hours, was held in a cordial atmosphere. The discussions centered around the Constitution and major national issues facing the country. The student problems also came up for discussion.

Ershad Comments on Farakka, Ganges Waters

BK241218 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0835 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpt] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad has called for close cooperation between the people and the government for the progress and prosperity of the country. He was inaugurating a 2-day seminar on people's participation in the implementation of the government programs in Dhaka today. The CMLA said the government will give the policy program while the people, through its implementation, will contribute their might for the country's economic emancipation. He said the 18-point program initiated by the government is the Magna Carta for changing the lot of the teeming million living in far-flung areas of the country. Its implementation will ensure a rapid development in all spheres of national life.

The CMLA expressed the hope that the country will achieve self-sufficiency in food within the next few years. In this context, he called for effective checking of the present population growth rate to avert a disaster. Gen Ershad said only a united nation can reach its desired goal by foiling the evil designs of those who are active to disturb the peaceful situation of the country. He cautioned the people against those who are trying to divide the nation and the people. The CMLA said we believe in positive [word indistinct] and not in politics of division and [word indistinct]. In this context, he reiterated his government's commitment for peaceful transfer of power to the people's government.

Gen Ershad said the government has given many facilities to the business community and, as such, they should not resort to any activity which will enhance the sufferings of the common man.

Speaking on the devastating effects of Farakka, the CMLA said the Padma is our river and we must get our due share of its water. Recollecting his call to the Indian prime minister for equal distribution of the Ganges water, Gen Ershad said nobody can deny us from having water from an international river.

On the sufferings of 12,000 Bangladeshis now living in Dahagram, General Ershad said they are now passing their days in extreme hardship by being cut off from us. He called for immediate transfer of Tin Bigha [border enclave leased to Bangladesh by India] to Bangladesh to help mitigate their sufferings.

Concluding, the CMLA hoped that the present seminar will go a long way in evolving a new guideline for the rapid development of the country.

Doha Leaves for 3-day Working Visit to Jidda

BK201727 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1700 GMT 20 May 83

[Text] Foreign Minister A.R. Shamsud Doha left Dhaka today for Jidda to begin a 3-day working visit at the Islamic Conference Organization Secretariat at the invitation of Secretary General Habib Chatti.

During his stay in Jidda, Doha will hold discussions with the secretary general on matters relating to preparations for the 14th conference of the Islamic foreign ministers to be held in Dhaka this December.

Besides this, he will also talk with him on other issues concerning the Muslim community.

Extremist Killed in Clash With Police in Tripura
BK250902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] In Tripura one armed extremist was killed and three apprehended in an exchange of fire between Central Reserve Police Force [CRPF] personnel and a group of about 20 extremists at (Lungtan) yesterday. A CRPF official told our Agartala correspondent that a large number of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

AFP: Airports on Special Alert; Hijackings Feared
BK250924 Hong Kong AFP in English 0912 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (AFP) — Security personnel at India's international airports have been placed on special alert following information that terrorists might attempt to hijack planes, the Times of India reported today.

The paper said Indian intelligence learned that pro-Khalistan Sikh extremists and members of the Al Zulfikar movement of Pakistan might hijack planes to grab publicity.

Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and Trivandrum airports have been on alert since last week. In Delhi, guards were patrolling the airport periphery to prevent unauthorised entries.

Three planes have been hijacked from Delhi airport in recent years, two by pro-Khalistan activists and one by a pro-Pakistan Kashmiri.

External Affairs Official To Visit Gulf
BK181456 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr A.A. Rahim, will on an official tour to the Gulf countries from the 24th of this month to the 10th of next month. He will be visiting the United Arab Republic [as heard], Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and Oman. He is expected to discuss political, economic, and cultural matters with the leaders of those countries. Mr Rahim will also carry the greetings and good wishes of the prime minister to heads of government of those countries.

India and the Gulf countries have been cooperating in various economic fields. There are a large number of projects already on the anvil.

Briefs

Envoy to Iraq — Ashoke Sen Chib, presently ambassador of India to Yugoslavia, has been appointed as the ambassador of India to Iraq in succession to Peter Lynn Sinai. Chib is expected to take up his assignment shortly. [Text] [Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0902 GMT 18 May 83 BK]

Wheat to Nepal — India is to give Nepal 10,000 tons of wheat on loan to enable it to meet the difficult food situation there. An agreement for this was signed by the senior officials of the two countries in New Delhi on 18 May. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 May 83 BK]

New Rice, Wheat Strains — New Delhi, May 18 (AFP) — Indian agricultural scientists have combined nuclear and conventional breeding methods to produce superior rice varieties with yield potential of up to seven tonnes per hectare. In another breakthrough, scientists at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) here developed two varieties of wheat that can be grown in traditional non-wheat areas. The successes were announced at a recent seminar on nuclear techniques in agriculture and reported by PTI agency today. The new strains of rice and wheat were produced after ten years of research using atomic radiation to produce an entirely new man-made germplasm. Then, the mutant was conventionally crossed with good quality rice and wheat varieties. Requests for wheat seeds have come from South Africa and Canada, PTI said. One of the new rice varieties matured in 105 days with an yield of 6.5 tonnes per hectare, the report said. [Hong Kong AFP in English 0543 GMT 18 May 83 BK]

CPI-M Leader's Death — A prominent leader of the Communist Party of India-Marxists, M.R. Venkataraman, died in Madras on 23 May. He was 78. A former member of the Rajya Sabha, Venkataraman has been a member of the party's Central Council. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 May 83 BK]

World Bank Loan — The World Bank has sanctioned a loan of over $250 million for improving India's power transmission capability. The country is to spend over $600 million on the power development programs. It will provide the first stage of integration between the northern, western, and southern power grids by constructing transmission lines. The World Bank loan is for 20 years, including a grace period of 5 years. It has also announced a soft credit of $147 million to the third urban development project in Calcutta. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 May 83 BK]

MUSLIM: Press Convention Calls for Ordinance Repeal
GF241247 Islamabad The Muslim in English 11 May 83 p 1

[Text] Karachi, May 10 — Three-day Qaid-e Azam press convention organised by Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE), which concluded here today, has demanded repeal of Press Publications Ordinance 1963, withdrawal of amendment in section 499 of Pakistan Penal Code, discontinuation of system of press advice and end to using advertisements and newsprint to pressurise newspapers.

The demands are contained in a number of resolutions adopted at the convention and announced at the concluding session held at a local hotel. Raja Zafarul Haq, federal minister for information and broadcasting, was the chief guest.

The convention also demanded lifting of censorship from the country as well as pre-censorship enforced in Karachi. He called for restoring declarations of newspapers and magazines and simplifying procedure for issuance of new declaration.

The participants felt that no action should be taken against any newspaper, journalist or printing press without recourse to a court of law.

They assured full cooperation in enforcing the press code of ethics and in making the press council of CPNE a success. They resolved to continue their struggle for the freedom of the press in the country and said they were confident that in this just, democratice and constructive struggle the CPNE would have full support of the nation.

They called upon the government to give special attention to problems of regional papers and give them due representations in foreign visits.

The participants expressed full support to the liberation movements in Afghanistan, Palestine, Kampuchea, South Africa, Eriteria, Namibia and occupied Arab lands and strongly condemned imperialist and other forces that were playing with the lives of the people for the furtherance of their personal motives.

They also condemned the inhuman killing of Muslims in the Indian State of Assam and expressed grief and sorrow over destruction of their property and homes. It appealed to the world press to raise its voice over these tragic killings. — PPI.

MUSLIM 11 May Editorial
GF241331 Islamabad The Muslim in English 11 May 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Blunt Talk From Both Sides"]

[Text] The inaugural session of the Qaid-i-Azam press convention convened by the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) prvided a good forum for some no-holds-barred between the leading representatives of government and the non-official media. A unique gathering in that it brought together editors and senior media representatives from all over the country, the inaugural speeches set the pace for the subsequent sessions which concluded yesterday.

In a bold and hard-hitting speech, the CPNE president minced few words in articulating the aspirations of the national media which has seen shackes in various forms under successive governments in the last thirty six years. More importantly, he took on what are recurrent themes in officialdom's attitude toward the press. These myths about the national media nurtured officially and often accepted widely, tend to create a rather unflattering portrait of our press, which has a track record of relentless struggle for its basic right to express itself freely under very heavy odds under every regime, civilian or military.

Some of the more prominent myths which the CPNE president dealt with in his speech make interesting reading. Myth number one states that the quality of our media vis-a-vis the rest of the world is rather low and that we are not producing journalists of calibre. CPNE president's response: "If there is any difference between the press in Pakistan and that of the developed countries, it is the freedom of the press. The press in developed countries enjoys the freedom which we have been denied all these many years." Myth number two is that the national media tends to be "irresponsible" by sensationalising news. CPNE president's response: "The hyper-sensitivity of the successive governments have created many problems for the national press. Difference of opinion has been regarded unforgivable, criticism branded as sedition, and publishing correct news declared a crime under the Pakistan Penal Code. Those who refused to forego their principles and refused to make a compromise with the conditions, were categorised as rebels and they had to undergo punishment for not giving up their independent behaviour." Myth number three states that the press is wholly and solely guided by commercial considerations, with little or no concern for moulding public opinio n on vital national issues. CPNE president's response: "When the newspapers are deprived of the opportunity to perform their real duties, they cease to remain newspapers and instead turn into business houses and albums of colour photographs. What can be a greater misfortune for a nation than the fact that its newspapers are not allowed to fully perform the duty of representing the nation." These myths apart, there is the definite dichotomy of the media seeking press freedom from the head of a martial law government, knowing fully well that the two are mutually exclusive. This clearly goes to show that the present regime has shown a commendably high degree of tole. ance with its capacity to stomach criticism of all sorts. Such a sensible and positive attitude certainly goes to its credit, contrary to the accepted pattern of martial law regimes attitude towards freedom of the press. However, it cannot be forgotten that this latitude given by the government operates within a highly-efficient institutionalised system of repression. The dismantling of some of its key components was demanded by the CPNE president. In his speech, the CPNE president urged the government to "abandon the practice of resorting to black laws made by previous regimes, annul the Pakistan Press and Publications Ordinance, repeal the amendment in Section 499 of the Pakistan Penal Code, discontinue the system of press advice and stop the use of advertisements and newsprint to pressurise the newspapers." Only by accepting these legitimate demands of the national media will the president's assertion that "our record in service to a free press has been incomparable" be truly meaningful and concretely underline its oft-repeated commitment to f r e e d o m o f t h e p r e s s .

MUSLIM Views Tudeh Arrests in Iran

GF241323 Islamabad The Muslim in English 6 May 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Iran's No to 'Made-in Moscow' Marxism"]

[Excerpts] Iran's pro-Soviet Communist Party — Tudeh — has been dissolved by the revolutionary regime and its members instructed to report to the nearest public prosecutor's office. This order comes in the wake of the defunct party chief's statement admitting to passing over confidential information regarding Iran to the Soviet Union. It may be added that the Tudeh Party chief, Nureddin Kianuri, is undergoing a trial on allegations of espionage on behalf of Moscow. Concurrently, Iran has also expelled eighteen Soviet diplomats based in Tehran on grounds of spying. Tudeh's inglorious end caps a career which apart from being chequered was marked by shameless opportunism, subservience to Moscow and frequent errors in analyses of Iranian events. Today the Tudeh, which tried in vain to ride the Islamic bandwagon in Iran, remains a shadow of its past strength which was sizeable in the early 1950s, particularly in the period of the nationalist, Dr. Mossadeq.

The fate that has befallen the Tudeh is a classical case of what happens to a party that allows itself to be turned into an instrument and extension of a foreign power's interests. The failure of this pro-Moscow organ in Iran is a lessor for other such parties and organisations of any hue and form who seek to overlook their own countries' realities preferring the patronage of outsiders. These events also decisiverly nullify the view dished out by the Americans and eagerly accepted by some official sections of an all-believing Third World that a Tudeh take-over in Iran was a real possibility or that Soviet influence would automatically rise after the demise of America's influence. The probable cause of the Tudeh's falling out with the revolutionary regime seems to be the Soviet Union, which has now emerged as the principal military supporter of Iraq. Tudeh's failure is also instructive in one other regard in that it typifies the colonized mind of a large section of the Third World intelligentsia. While there are those who eagerly embrace the Western world-view and values, others in this "dependency syndrome" seek refuge in Moscow. Pakistan is a case in point. While the overwhelming section of our intellectuals are camp-followers of the West (Washington), others view Moscow as their Mecca. An example of the former is those who condemn the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan while not being critical of America's support to Israel, Islam's greatest enemy. The attitude of the latter was recently manifested at a Lahore May Day rally organised by a local trade union organisation. Speakers at this meeting hailed the "Afghan revolution" and denounced the Islamic Revolution. Naturally, none dared mention the oppression of workers in Poland, where an ostensibly "proletarian" regime has had to impose Martial Law to contain labour unrest.

It is this affliction of blind ideological and political dependency on external powers which Tudeh exemplified all through its career that led to a fate which could not have been otherwise. It is precisely this affliction which our people have to guard against because, if nothing else, it represents intellectual bankruptcy of the worst kind and inhibits the development of authentic and independent thinking on our part vis-a-vis our problems and that of the world.

DAWN: Trucking Pact With Iran Considered

GF211352 Karachi Dawn in English 17 May 83 p 1

[By Shaheen Sehbai]

[Text] Pakistan and Iran are negotiating a bilateral road transport agreement which will enable exporters in the two countries to ship their cargo by trucks.

Informed sources told *"Dawn"* that a high-level Pakistan delegation was likely to visit Tehran shortly to finalise details, and officials were expecting that the accord would be signed by July this year.

The need for the trucking arrangement was felt following long delays and serious shipping problems faced by Pakistani exporters on consignments sent by rail to Iran.

Till recently several hundred railway wagons were reported to be blocked in Iran, mainly because of unloading problems on the Iranian side.

Sources said the Iranians were insisting that Pakistan should join the international trucking agreement which enables every member to use the territory of others for transit shipment of goods.

"This position is not acceptable to Pakistan," one highly placed source said. The reason given is that both India and Iran are members of the international agreement and if Pakistan also joined in, India will get automatic transit facilities over Pakistan territory to trade with Iran and the entire Western world.

Pakistan has been emphasising that since Iran has already signed bilateral trade pact with Pakistan involving trade exchanges totalling 500 million U.S. dollars it would be proper if a bilateral arrangement is made allowing Pakistani trucks to unload their cargo in Zahedan or even further, if agreed to.

Exporters to Iran stress that the very holding of talks on the subject shows that Iran has softened her position, and some sort of arrangement may be possible. "If this is not so, there is hardly anything to talk about as Pakistan cannot join the international agreement in any case," an exporter remarked.

Private-sector exporters to Iran have been the worst affected by the rail bottleneck. When bulk commodities like wheat or fertiliser are shipped to Zahedan by rail, all other traditional exports are choked off, according to one exporter.

The matter of delays on the Iranian side is also receiving urgent attention, official sources said. A Pakistani delegation is likely to visit Zahedan soon to assess the situation.

Among the major items to be exported to Iran, for which deals have been made, are wheat, fertilisers and sugar (if samples sent to Tehran are approved).

Briefs

Cooperation Accord With DPRK — Pakistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have signed an agreement in Islamabad for development of cooperation in the cultural, sports, educational, and scientific fields. [Text][Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 83 BK]

Agreement With Nepal — Pakistan and Nepal today signed an agreement for establishing a joint economic commission to oversee and promote cooperation in various fields. These include economy, trade, agriculture, water management, industry, education, culture, communications, science and technology, hydropower generation, and tourism. The agreement was signed by the Pakistan finance minister, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and his Nepalese counterpart, Yadav Prashad. [Excerpt] [Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 May 83 BK]

NEPAL

Pakistani President Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK241307 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpts] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, who arrived in Katmandu this morning on a 4-day state visit to Nepal, is scheduled to hold talks with King Birendra Bikram Shah Dev this afternoon. During the talks, the two leaders will review international and regional issues of mutual concern and discuss bilateral relations.

On arrival in Katmandu, the president was given a very warm and colorful reception. The president and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq were received by the king and the queen at the Tribhuvan International Airport. The king then introduced to the president high dignitaries, including the Nepalese prime minister, Surya Bahadur Thapa, and the chairman of the National Panchayat, Mr (Martch Man Singh). National anthems of the two countries were played and the airport boomed with a 21-gun salute. After the airport ceremony, the president accompanied by the king, proceeded to the city hall in a motorcade where he signed the book of the city of Katmandu. Later, the president boarded a state coach and proceeded to the Narayanhity Royal Palace, where he is staying. Our representative from Katmandu says that the entire route from the airport to the city hall and onward to the royal palace was lined by cheering crowds who chanted welcome slogans.

Earlier, overflying the Indian territory, President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq sent messages from the aircraft to the Indian president, Mr Zail Singh, and the prime minsiter, Mrs Indira Gandhi. In his message to the Indian president, he expressed the confidence that friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries will continue to strengthen. In his message to Mrs Indira Gandhi, the president also expressed the confidence that growing bonds of friendship between our two neighborly countries will benefit both the peoples of Pakistan and India and serve to strengthen peace and stability in our region.

Zia, Birendra Banquet Speeches

BK250605 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said both Pakistan and Nepal are working closely together for the common objectives of consolidation of national independence, preservation of sovereignty, and establishment of a new and just international economic order. He was speaking at a banquet given in his honor by King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev at the Royal Narayanhiti Palace in Katmandu tonight. The president emphasized that both countries adhere to the recognized principles of interstate relations, i.e. respect for independence and sovereignty, noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries, and abstention from the use of force or threat of force. He said: We want to see the entire world follow these principles.

The president mentioned the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan and said it had affected peace and tranquillity of the region and had forced 3 million Afghan nationals to take refuge in Pakistan. He said we desire a political settlement of this problem and are sincerely working for it. He described the progress made at the Geneva indirect talks as encouraging and said we hope this process will bear fruit, ending a tragic chapter in the history of Afghanistan. The president said it is our demand, and indeed that of the entire world community, that the foreign forces withdraw from Afghanistan, its independence is restored, the Afghan people get their right to self-determination, and the Afghan refugees return home in safety and dignity. He also expressed concern at the situation in Kampuchea and the Middle East, the Iran-Iraq war, and the serious deterioration in the international economic situation.

Turning to bilateral relations, President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan and Nepal are bound in ties of shared aspirations which inspire their efforts for development and reconstruction. Both desire friendship with all nations, particularly their neighbors, and want peace and amity to enable them to work for the welfare of their people and their economic and social progress. He said both countries, like other developing countries, face serious economic challenges. They have immense resources and gifted people. What they need is modern technology and mutually beneficial cooperation for the maximum use of their national resources. The president said the conclusion of an agreement for the establishment of a joint ministerial commission will prove extremely useful in bringing the two countries closer together. He praised the Nepalese Government's efforts for the establishment of mutual cooperation among the South Asian countries. He also praised King Birendra Bikram Shah Dev's leadership, which, he said, is bringing progress and prosperity to Nepal.

Earlier, welcoming the president, King Birendra said Nepal valued its friendship with Pakistan and admired the way it had been trying to develop its own independence. Pakistan, with its understanding of Nepal's aspirations, has earned the appreciation of the Nepalese people by supporting Nepal as a zone of peace. He said there are no outstanding problems between Pakistan and Nepal. Both their governments are engaged in exploring new avenues of cooperation between the two countries. He described the agreement to set up a joint economic commission signed today as an important step toward this end. King Birendra said Nepal's relations with Pakistan was historic and the two countries, which belong to the same region, share a common vision of international and bilateral cooperation, which gives significance to their relations. King Birendra said in Nepal they dearly prized their independence by refusing to play into the hands of any power — big or small. The policy of nonalignment, which Nepal firmly adheres to, is born of this principle. Even more important is the policy of peaceful cooperation we seek from all countries, particularly our neighbors.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speech at 24 May Majlis Session

LD241552 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 83

[Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani speech at the 24 May Majlis open session — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today is the anniversary of the highly glorious recapturing of Khorramshahr by the Iranian Armed Forces. It is the day when this epic and valiant city was retaken. For this purpose, we focus our attention on the war and the enlightening remarks made by the imam concerning issues which touch upon the war and other related matters.

Following this tremendous victory and the demonstration of the divine power of the army, the Guards Corps, and the mobilization organization, the enemies of Islam and the revolution began their plot aimed at diminishing the traces of this victory and at lowering the immense stature of the Islamic Republic in the world. Today we are witnessing multidirectional pressures — both positive and negative — from all corners of the world. These pressures are being exerted by both the West and the East as well as by forces of reaction from the region. They are trying to coerce the Islamic Republic into agreeing to a peace which would diminish the credit and honor of our great military victories, thus diminishing the hope pinned on the Islamic Revolution by the oppressed people, particularly the oppressed peoples of the region.

It was by virtue of these same plots that generous aid was provided to Iraq in the form of supplying equipment from the USSR, France, and the forces of reaction in the region. This aid was then coupled with pressure applied to international bodies and other events already known to you.

The remarks made by the imam of the nation during his meeting with the members of the crusade also viewed this important issue. The imam has always stressed that our important problem — our initial problem — is the war, that anyone trying to remove the war issue from its priority status or anyone trying to raise other issues which might undermine the war, would be considered to be hatching a plot. We must oppose and fight against such measures. We are witnessing indications and evidence which show that the imam, with his profound foresight, understands the issues in depth. His wise leadership in the past has led us to believe that when he issues guidance we do not understand at the time, we will eventually come to realize the valdity of his remarks.

He referred to a plot hatched by the opponents of the Islamic Republic, those who have given up the hope of direct confrontation against the revolution. They had hatched a mischievous plot to weaken the areas behind the battlefront and demoralize the people regarding the revolution and its future successes as well as the realization of their hopes. By placing a question mark before the achievements of the revolution — a revolution which can rightly be depended upon for the values, which it has achieved in 4 years, but which are the equivalent of 40 years — they intend to lead the people to a stage at which they would no longer be prepared to make sacrifices either in connection with the war or the continuation of the revolution.

In a society in which wherever one looks one hears the slogan "War, war until victory;" in a society in which the people are unwilling to retreat even one step after 30 months, 30-odd months, of tolerating an extensive war and sustaining deprivations caused by the revolution as well as the difficulties emanating from the economic sanctions and pressures exerted by the superpowers; in a society where in the missile-stricken Dezful and the devastated Andimeshk, both having doubly shouldered the war burden, their slogan before a visiting international delegation continues to be "War, war until victory" and their refusal to accept a demeaning peace is obvious — in such a society it is not at all fair to raise issues that may create doubts in the minds of people concerning the revolution and its successes.

The imam has observed these processes in various contexts. They have been observed in certain Friday prayers sermons, in certain other gatherings, and probably in the remarks made by some of the Majlis deputies. Considering the confidence the imam has in his people, in his nation, in us and the Majlis, in the Friday prayers and the Friday imams and speakers, then, naturally, it would be difficult for him to accept that these people have ulterior motives. Considering his good will toward the nation, in certain cases the imam interprets these things as simplemindedness or misguidedness caused by evil peoples who might be hiding behind these events.

As for us, we too see signs of a mischievious organizing effort in line with this hypocritical and covert move.

Thanks to the imam of the nation's warning, guidance, and true leadership before important incidents occur, we believe that the line that he has set for us — especially the Majlis deputies and Friday imams — will be a clear line for the continuation of our propaganda. With my knowledge of the imam's character and in view of his contact with the Majlis and its rights, I am sure that the imam's view was not that the Majlis and others in charge of the people's ideology do not have the right to criticize and expose deviations. The imam's view is that we should act realistically and fairly in our contacts and that we should contantly remind the people of their great achievements. We should consider and talk about "the bounty of Thy Lord." [Koranic verse spoken in Arabic]The people should hear every speaker first tell of the achievements and effects of their revolution, the value of the blood that they have shed, and the effects of their martyrs and disabled. Then they should turn their attention to their problems.

Executive officials should note that they are the heirs to much blood and self-sacrifice and should not erase such achievements with narrowmindedness and weaknesses. If we were to constantly move toward anarchy and point the sharp edge of our comments at shortages arising from our 30-odd months of war, our all-embracing revolution, all our enemies throughout the world, and our lack of experience, experts, and many other things — naturally, if we concentrate on these shortages and disregard honors and sagas it will have an adverse effect on our people and be used by our enemies.

On behalf of the Majlis deputies — in whose piety and obeisance to the imam I believe — I say to the great imam that, as it has repeatedly shown, this Islamic Consultative Assembly always followed your guidance and will move in any direction that you set. The Friday prayers' platforms and other officials and dignitaries who speak in mosques and various gatherings will also follow the line that the imam has set.

They will voice the greatness of the revolution and its achievements and glories as well as reminding executive officials, in particular, of shortages. We also point out to ourselves and the decisionmakers that we must endeavor to eliminate obstacles in the executive official's way so that the lines of our economic, political, and cultural advance may become clearer, thus enabling everyone to recognize in what context and along what path they should move.

In conclusion, I express my congratulations and sympathy to the imam of the nation and the noble nation on the martyrdom of such an eminent person as the great commander, Martyr Borujerdi. He was one of the founders and pioneers of the Revolution Guards Corps. During the entire period of the revolution, he was in the west and the hazardous areas in Kordestan. He fought there and engaged in battle in these areas. We express our sympathies and congratulations over his martyrdom, as well as the martyrdom of three of his associates. We pray to God for his soul, as well as the souls of all the martyrs on the path of revolution. God bless you all.

Judicial Council Election Committee Letter to Khomeyni

LD241432 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 May 83

["Text" of letter by Committee for Supervision of Complementary Elections to Supreme Judicial Council submitted to Imam Khomeyni on behalf of the committee by Mohammad 'Ali Sadduqi on 23 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The auspicious imam, the great imam, the great leader of the revolution, his excellency, the great ayatollah, Imam Khomeyni, may God extend your shadow. As you know, the complementary elections for the selection of two members to the Supreme Judicial Council are in progress. A number of people have been introduced as candidates for membership on the council.

According to Article 2, items two and three, of the bill of law on the election of three of the country's judges for membership on the Supreme Judicial Council, those elected should have the following two qualifications: they are acknowledged experts in theology, capable of understanding theological precepts from the book, tradition, or other substantive proof to the same level as a jurisconsult and they have religious piety and fairness, as exemplified by practical commitment as well as doing what is necessary and refraining from doing what is not allowed by Islam.

According to Article 3, item four, of the said law, rejecting or approving the fulfillment of the said two conditions by the candidates is up to the imam of the nation. The list of the candidates is enclosed. Please inform the Committee for the Supervision of the Elections of the names of those whose piety and fairness you acknowledge.

[Signed] The imam's representative, Mohammad 'Ali Sadduqi; representative of the Supreme Court, Hoseyn Shayegan; representative of the Supreme Judicial Council, Hoseyn Mehrpur

Montazeri Given Selection Power

GF241815 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 24 May 83

[Excerpts] Mohammad 'Ali Sadduqi, the imam's representative in the delegation to oversee the final elections for the Supreme Judicial Council handed over a letter from the delegation to the imam yesterday.

According to our correspondent, Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a letter to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in this connection has given him the responsibility to act as he sees fit to establish the fitness of those who have been suggested for membership in the Supreme Judicial Council.

Radio Iran: Change of Slogan Sign of Power Struggle

GF241710 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] The extensive battle to capture the power and the decision-making centers of the Islamic regime has even reached the regime's propaganda and street slogans. For the first time, the imamis have announced that Khomeyni should continue his rule even when the Mahdi has arrived and not to resign with the appearance of the Mahdi, thus forming a joint government with his holiness to solve international issues. This slogan, which will gradually become the official slogan of the imami faction was also carried by the radio of the Islamic regime as the heartfelt prayer of the hezbollahi nation. In the slogan, Khomeyni has been given the title of the sun, thus making him an eternal figure and giving him a position higher than that of the absent imam of the Shi'ites. Let us listen to this slogan which was carried by the radio of the Islamic regime:

[Begin recording] This is the heartfelt prayer of the families of all martyrs. All the hezbollahi nation shout: O Lord, O Lord, when the stars disappear, keep the sun. O Lord, O Lord, deep Khomeyni by the side of the Mahdi. [end recording]

You heard the slogan: O Lord, keep the sun when the stars are gone. Keep Khomeyni by the side of the Mahdi.

Official Returns, Comments on Talks in Libya, Syria

LD241812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 83

[Text] Our correspondent informs us that the political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Sheykh ol-Eslam, who left last Thursday for Syria and Libya to deliver President Khamene'i's message to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and

Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, returned to Iran yesterday. This visit was in connection with the critical situation in the Islamic and Arab region and the disgraceful agreement between the Zionist regime and Lebanon.

According to this report, the political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs took part in a press conference this afternoon and replied to questions from reporters. Concerning the disgraceful agreement between the Zionist regime and Lebanon, he said: This agreement not only removes Lebanon from the fold of the Arab and Islamic countries, it even brings it under the guardianship [qeymumiyyat] of the Zionist regime. This agreement will result in Lebanon's independence and existence being terminated, while the Zionist regime will continue its expansionist policies and will pressure Muslims to prevent the spread of the Islamic Revolution in the region.

He added: At the time when the disgraceful Camp David accord was signed, the Arab countries opposed it at least in appearance, while now that Lebanon, as the second Arab country, signs a more degrading agreement with the Zionist regime, none of the Arab reactionaries make a murmur; they even agree to it.

He stated: We have already announced our opposition to this appeasing agreement, and we had discussions with our Syrian and Libyan brothers in order to confront the Zionist regime. In addition to discussions concerning our bilateral relations, we announced that we will support any decision that may be made in a unified way by the Arab and Muslim countries. If the steadfastness front makes a move on behalf of the Muslim and progressive countries, we announce our readiness to cooperate with it.

He added: The Syrian and Libyan leaders expressed their gratitude for the correct position adopted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also emphasized our support for the correct stance that they have adopted. We support the unity of Arab and Islamic countries in confronting this extensive conspiracy.

Our correspondent reports that the the political under secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said concerning yesterday's attack by the racist South African regime against Mozambique: The nature of the racist and antihuman regime of South Africa is the same as that of the Zionist regime. Both are illegal and both may be expected to engage in such aggression. The Islamic Republic of Iran has a hostile attitude toward them. We condemn the recent attack against Mozambique and express our sympathy to those brothers who are fighting against that regime for the independence of their ancestral land.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,325

LD241745 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 83

[Communique No 1,325 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The situation on the battlefronts of the imposed war are brought to the attention of our dear compatriots. Yesterday on the western fronts, exchanges of fire and sporadic clashes continued. The combatants of Islam opened defensive fire and inflicted losses on the Saddamist forces. In the Meynak sector, patrols penetrated the Iraqi defensive positions and killed 10 Saddamist mercenaries. The patrols also destroyed several trenches and two heavy vehicles.

Thanks to the artillery fire of our combatants on the Dezh Shahpur front, an Iraqi motorpool was set ablaze and one motorized column, which was moving near the park, was heavily damaged. Several soldiers in the motorized column were also killed or wounded. Exchanges of fire continued in the Dehloran region.

On the southern fronts, the warriors of Islam, consolidated their own defensive positions and continued defending the region under their protection. Sporadic exchange of artillery and other heavy weapons fire continued on these fronts. Our forces silenced enemy artillery fire.

Our vigilant warriors inflicted losses on Iraqi infantry patrols on one of the southern fronts near (Subleh).

On the Abadan front, the brave warriors of the Gendarmerie opened fire on positions and fortifications of the enemy on the other side of the Arvand Rud, destroying eight weapons emplacements and several observation posts. Around 20 Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded. The city of Abadan was calm yesterday.

During the past 24 hours, the self-sacrificing combatants of the Iranian Air Force neutralized all enemy air raid attempts.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Bushehr Guards Chief on Tudeh, Civilian Force

GF201040 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 19 May 83

[Interview with Bushehr Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Commander Mohammadi by unidentified correspondent on 19 May, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Brother Mohammadi, the brothers of the Corps recently have been involved in intensive activity throughout the country in connection with the arrests of the traitorous and defunct Tudeh Party. I would like to know what measures were taken in Bushehr Province. How many members of this party were arrested and from what levels? What is happening at present?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Regarding the Tudeh Party in Bushehr Province, what we have gleaned is that the path and course of all the parties and groups, in whatever guise they wear, may be contradictory to the cause of the revolution and its leadership and they will eventually stand up against the revolution. The Tudeh'is, with their past record and, in our opinion, the treachery that they had committed, contributed to our impression of them and the feeling that they might one day rise up against us, especially since they were

affiliated with an Eastern superpower. For this reason, they were under suspicion from the beginning and, with the assistance of the 36-million-strong intelligence force, the necessary data was collected. Even before the orders for their arrests could be issued, their secretary in Bushehr had been arrested while he was engaged in an espionage operation for the infiltration of two peoples into the Bushehr revolutionary organizations. He had been imprisoned even before the others were arrested.

When it was decided that their higher echelons should be arrested, steps were taken and in a few hours all the senior cadres who had been identified for arrest were arrested all over the province with the coordination of the 36-million-strong intelligence force, the people's efforts, and the affiliated organizations, and were handed over to the judicial authorities. All of them are now under arrest and they have divulged all that was necessary. We can confidently say that we have been 99 percent successful in our encounter with them. The other 1 percent is only the result of things that escaped our brothers.

[Question] It is obvious that the infiltration of the members of this party into various departments and organizations, especially into the revolutionary organizations, may have proliferated rumors in society. Could you tell us what networks have been unearthed in view of these rumors?

[Answer] As I have already said, even before the arrests there were some of them in the revolutionary organizations in the province who had gained a foothold. They regularly sent out information and they also forwarded the information as necessary. In addition, all their installations were part of an espionage network which reported in great detail on all the activities of the cities and the province, including the offices, organizations, ceremonies, Friday prayers, and all the other matters. They sent this information to whereever they considered necessary.

[Question] Has some information been extracted from the various Tudeh Party members?

[Answer] Yes, they revealed all the equipment that they had here and pinpointed where everything was. They personally handed these things over and everything has been confiscated. They had duplication equipment, which they had (?installed) in an expert manner in a shop. They had many automobiles, some motorcycles, a store which was at the disposal of the party, a large amount of money. As I have already said, their assets were confiscated, their installations all over the province and in the districts were unearthed, by the grace of God, and the persons involved were arrested and handed over to the relevant authorities.

[Question] The Guards Corps of Distict 6 is establishing an al-Qadir Brigade comprised of the resistant mobilization groups. What are the reasons for setting up such a brigade and how will it operate?

[Answer] In accordance with the guidance of the great leader of the Islamic Revolution, we know that our struggle is with world apostasy and until the appearance of the Imam Mehdi, may God hasten his appearance. Therefore, we should be completely prepared for confrontation with the superpowers. As our heroic and martyr-nurturing nation knows, the establishment of the 20-million-strong army has been assigned to the Islamic Revolution Guards and they are engaged in giving it the proper form. In this case, in view of the sensitive location of our province as a maritime frontier which (?borders) the sea and which is the focus of the superpowers' attention, it is necessary for us to better organize our installations and formations. Civilians who have been to the front a few times and who have fought against the infidels will be included in the force on the level of regiments, battalions, and brigades and we will classify them and organize them so that the Al-Qadir Brigade takes the form of a (?formal) brigade. It even marched in the Revolution Guards Day parade, which I am sure the brothers witnessed.

We will follow up this matter, God willing, and we will prepare more brigades and platoons for the time, God forbid, when the superpowers may have bad intentions toward our Islamic country.

[Question] Mr Mohmmadi, as has been predicted, the end of the imposed war will be to the advantage of the Islamic Republic and our combatants. With the conclusion of the war, the conspiracy of world oppression, especially in the sphere of military aggression, will be revealed even more clearly. In view of the fact that Bushehr has a long maritime frontier and is of unusually strategic importance, please tell us what the role of the people's force, particularly the mobilization, will be in this regard?

[Answer] The Corps has embarked on a series of measures in connection with the sea and the naval installations under the directions of Headquarters No 9. I cannot describe these in great detail here, but I can say the steps have been very effective and useful. On the coastline, as I have mentioned earlier, we have organized the people and have set up many resistance groups. In most of the villages in the littoral belt we have been able to arm the people, to organize them, and all of them are now prepared to combat every kind of plot in the region if need be.

We have warned all the world powers that our people have thousands of incentives based on Islam and faith in their hearts and are ready to defnd their country and the sacred precincts of the Islamic Republic with the last drop of their blood.

[Question] In view of the struggle against the plots of the internal counterrevolution and all external aggression of our ubiquitous people in the border areas of Bushehr Province, do you have any message?

[Answer] Of course, the people are the ones who have been guiding us on how to act. It has always been like this and will be like this in the future.

Radio Iran Reports Defections of Officer, Diplomats

GF231850 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] According to a report that we just received, a helicopter belonging to the Islamic Republic oil company landed in Oman's Musandan Peninsula. Its pilot is a major [as heard] by the name of Reza 'Ali Khanshah. He is a member of the Navy of the Islamic Republic. The pilot of this aircraft was arrested after

landing by Omani police for illegal entry into the country. We have no report on his fate. However, according to another report, he has asked the Muscat authorities to be allowed to ask for asylum from another country.

Two diplomats of the regime of Ruhollah Khomeyni, Baqer Hoseynkhani, the regime's counsul in Qatar, and Ja'far Azarmgin, the political attache of Ayatollah Khomeyni in Colombo, have resigned after condemning the Islamic Republic regime and have asked for asylum in other countries.

Four Returning Students Reportedly Executed

GF231811 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] The names of four Iranian students who were arrested and executed immediately after returning home have been published. They are: (Rafik) Nurshahian, 'Enayat Soltanzadeh, Jalal Mavvaji, and Mohammad (Beysi). They returned to Iran to visit their families after receiving the go-ahead from the Islamic Republic's consular office in India. They were arrested in the airport by officials of the revolution prosecutor's office — Mehrabad Airport branch — and were taken to Evin Prison. They were then executed after a kangaroo court.

According to this report, an Iranian student was murdered in India by hezbollahis around the same time as the executions in Iran.

'Severe Disagreement' Among Esfahan Mullahs Cited

GF231809 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 23 May 83

[Text] After the broadcast of our report about the open and severe disagreement among mullahs in Esfahan — which led to holding two Friday prayers in the city a while ago — Taheri, the city's Friday imam, arrived in Qom to seek the advice of Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri. In the meeting,Montazeri announced his support for Mullah Taheri and asked him to stand up to the deviated satans of Esfahan, who, in his opinion, do not follow the line of the revolution and are elements of right and left. It has been said in Esfahan that Mullah Taheri, using illness as an excuse, has asked to be excused as the city's Friday imam. Hoseyn 'ali Montazeri, who has been given the title of grand ayatollah by the imami newspapers, praised Taheri and encouraged him to stand fast.

'Counterrevolutionaries' Cleared From Five Villages

LD251052 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 25 May 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, May 24, IRNA — Muslim combatants destroyed one enemy vehicle and another grader, and heavily pounded several trenches of the Iraqi troops killing and wounding many of them in the western fronts yesterday.

In other reports from the city of Sanandaj (Bakhtaran Province) 40 counterrevolutionaries were killed Sunday during mopping operations in five villages near the city and also upon the Taleh-Rash [word indistinct] route. One armed counterrevolutionary was also captured by the Islamic revolution's guards during the operations. The Muslim combatants now have regained full control over the villages of Chatan, Qelqeleh, Gav Darreh, Mo'in-abad and Khak Ruzi.

Correction to Prosecutor General's Comments on Tudeh

The following corrections pertain to the item headlined "Prosecutor General Comments on Tudeh Party Trial Plans," published in the 19 May South Asia *Daily Report*, page I 3:

Second paragraph, line three reads. . .trial take place and where will the trial be held? What treatment will be given to its supporters who present themselves to headquarters? . . .(supplying words indistinct and confirming queried word)

Third paragraph, line two reads . .. compassionate, the merciful. First, I want to express gratitude and gratification on the question of God's generousity upon the martyr-nuturing nation of Iran, the hezbollahi nation, which always remains steadfast against our enemies and which, with God's help, will deal effectively with the foes of the revolution and Islam, which has overcome any weaknesses in and objections to the revolution. In connection with the situation concerning the Tudeh Party, I must say that, with the succor of God, all the leaders of the Tudeh Party, either members of the Central Committee or committees in the provinces, whether high-ranking or of the lower echelons, have been arrested. That is, most have been arrested. More than 1,500 of them throughout Iran, the number which was necessary, have been arrested. After the date was announced by the revolution prosecutor's office, that is, some 2 or 3 days after the announcement, a large number presented themselves . . .(supplying words indistinct and rewording)

Fourth paragraph, lines four and five read . . . of themselves with their identification cards and photocopies of their . . .(supplying queried word)

Fifth paragraph, lines three and four read . . . have confessed and have told of their offenses. They have all. . .(supplying words indistinct).

Sixth paragraph, line six reads . . . even the criminal superpowers will realize how. . .(confirming queried word).

Briefs

Meeting With DPRK Envoy — The governor of Tehran met with the DPRK charge d'affaires in Tehran today. Issues of mutual interest were discussed during the meeting. [Summary] [Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 23 May 83 GF]